

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct minor grammatical informalities therein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 13-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 were canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 13-24 are submitted herein. New claims 13-24 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,961,446 to Imagawa et al. (herein "Imagawa"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

New claims 13-24 are written to clarify features from original claims 1-12, and are believed to distinguish over the previously applied art to Imagawa. Independent claim 13 is directed to a moving-picture processing method including:

acquiring metadata including temporal region information including information for use in determining whether or not to incorporate each of temporal regions into a respective one of cutout moving pictures, and cutout region restriction information that restricts a cutout region to be cut out, in an input moving picture including a plurality of temporal regions;

calculating a displayed/undisplayed region in a picture of each of frames of the input moving picture on the basis of the temporal region information;

setting a cutout region to be cut out, in order that the degree of coincidence of the displayed/undisplayed region and the cutout region restriction information increases in the picture of the each frame of the input moving picture; and

cutting out the cutout region from an image of each frame of the input moving picture.

New independent claim 19 is directed to a moving-picture processing apparatus including:

means for acquiring metadata including temporal region information including information for use in determining whether or not to incorporate each of temporal regions into a respective one of cutout moving pictures, and cutout region restriction information that restricts a cutout region to be cut out, in an input moving picture including a plurality of temporal regions;

calculating means for calculating a displayed/undisplayed region in a picture of each frame of the input moving picture on the basis of the temporal region information;

setting means for setting a cutout region to be cut out, in order that the degree of coincidence of the displayed/undisplayed region and the cutout region restriction information increases in the picture of each of frames of the input moving picture; and

cutting-out means for cutting out the cutout region from an image of each frame of the input moving picture.

The above-noted features particularly directed to the “metadata including temporal region information” and the “temporal region information including information for use in determining whether or not to incorporate each of temporal regions into a respective one of cutout moving pictures” are believed to be neither taught nor suggested by Imagawa. That subject matter is also discussed in the present specification for example at page 19, line 3 et seq.

With respect to original claims 1-12, those claims recited features of acquiring metadata including information about each temporal region in an input moving picture, but Imagawa is not believed to disclose or suggest the features now clarified in new independent claims 13 and 19.

With respect to the previously recited limitation of acquiring metadata including information about temporal regions, the outstanding rejections cited Imagawa at column 3, lines 35-54; column 6, lines 24-49; and column 7, line 49 to column 8, line 24.¹ In reply to those grounds for rejection applicants submit such disclosures in Imagawa are not at all directed to the features recited in the claims as currently written.

First, at column 3, lines 35-44 Imagawa notes an editing operation may calculate a partial region corresponding to an image sequence, and the partial region may be specified by description in a metadata format.

Applicants submit such disclosures in Imagawa are not at all directed to temporal region information that would determine whether or not to incorporate each of temporal region into a respective one of cutout moving pictures. The noted “partial region” in Imagawa is not directed to such features.

Further, at column 6, lines 24-49 Imagawa discloses being able to perform a clipping process to eliminate unnecessary portions of moving image data. That disclosure in Imagawa, however, does not even appear directed to metadata, and particularly is not directed to “metadata including temporal region information” which in turn “includes information for use in determining whether or not to incorporate each of temporal regions into a respective one of cutout moving pictures”. Thereby, that further disclosure in Imagawa is not directed to the claims as written.

The final cited disclosure in Imagawa at column 7, line 49 to column 8, line 24 is also directed to the noted clipping process, which again as noted above is not directed to the features as currently reflected in the claims.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit no disclosures in Imagawa are directed to the features now clarified in the claims, particularly directed to

¹ Office Action of December 19, 2007, page 2, prenumbered paragraph 2, first full paragraph.

acquiring metadata “including temporal region information including information for use in determining whether or not to incorporate each of temporal regions into a respective one of cutout moving pictures”. As those features are positively recited in each of new independent claims 13 and 19, applicants respectfully submit new independent claims 13 and 19, and thereby the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over Imagawa.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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